3. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the protein-free medium further comprises at least one of the following ingredients: Hepes buffer, L-glutamine and sodium bicarbonate without phenol red.

4. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the antibody is IgG or IgM and is specific for a Leishmania antigen.

5. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the sample is a serum sample.

a2

6. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 5, wherein the serum sample is modified by diluting it 1:1000 in blocking buffer having 1.0% boiled casein.

7. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein said immunoassay is capable of diagnosing visceral, cutaneous or canine leishmaniasis in a subject.

8. (Amended) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the *Leishmania* parasites are clones of *Leishmania donovani*, *Leishmania mexicana*, or a combination thereof.

11. (Amended) The kit of claim 45, wherein the soluble antigen is of either *L. donovani* or *L. mexicana*.

12. (Amended) The kit of claim 45, wherein the substrate is coated with the soluble antigen.

a3

13. (Amended) The kit of claim 45, further comprising a positive control.

14. (Amended) The kit of claim 45, further comprising a negative control.

15. (Amended) The kit of claim 45, further comprising a diluent.

16. (Amended) The kit of claim 45, further comprising an anti-human IgG conjugated to a label.

17. (Amended) The kit of claim 45, further comprising a substrate chromogen.

a3

18. (Amended) The kit of claim 45, further comprising a substrate buffer.

cond.

19. (Amended) The kit of claim 45, further comprising a blocking buffer.

20. (Amended) The kit of claim 45, further comprising a stopping solution.

a4

27. (Amended) The kit of claim 45, further comprising instructions.

a5

29. (Amended) A diagnostic device comprising a *Leishmania* soluble antigen prepared by culturing a *Leishmania* parasite in a protein-free medium comprising an oncotic agent and a means for detecting an antibody bound to the *Leishmania* soluble antigen.

Please cancel claim 2.

Please add the following claims:

41. (New) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the oncotic agent balances the oncotic pressure across the semi-permeable membrane of the *Leishmania* parasites.

a6

42. (New) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the oncotic agent is a colloidal agent, a crosslinking agent, or both.

43. (New) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the oncotic agent is D, xylose.

44. (New) The immunoassay of claim 1, wherein the oncotic agent is not metabolized by the *Leishmania* parasites.

45. (New) A kit, packaged together for single or multiple use assays, for the diagnosis of leishmaniasis in a subject comprising a substrate and a soluble antigen prepared by culturing *Leishmania* parasites in a protein-free medium comprising an oncotic agent.

46. (New) The kit of claim 45, wherein the oncotic agent balances the oncotic pressure across the semi-permeable membrane of the *Leishmania* parasites.

47. (New) The kit of claim 45, wherein the oncotic agent is a colloidal agent, a crosslinking agent, or both.

48. (New) The kit of claim 45, wherein the oncotic agent is D, xylose.

a6 cont.

49. (New) The kit of claim 45, wherein the oncotic agent is not metabolized by the *Leishmania* parasites.

50. (New) The diagnostic device of claim 29, wherein the oncotic agent balances the oncotic pressure across the semi-permeable membrane of the *Leishmania* parasite.

51. (New) The diagnostic device of claim 29, wherein the oncotic agent is a colloidal agent, a cross-linking agent, or both.

52. (New) The diagnostic device of claim 29, wherein the oncotic agent is D, xylose.

53. (New) The diagnostic device of claim 29, wherein the oncotic agent is not metabolized by the *Leishmania* parasite.